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(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Mark A. Hixon

(Typed name of person mailing correspondence)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--|---|-------------------------|
| In re Application of: |] | |
| FRANK DZIOBEK, DETLEV CLAES, |] | |
| JOACHIM JOHANNING, RAINER MAURER |] | Group Art Unit: |
| and ERICH SZONN |] | |
| |] | |
| Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the DO/EO/US |] | Examiner: |
| off PCT/EP03/01538 filed 15 February 2003 |] | |
| |] | |
| For: METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION |] | Attorney Docket 1-16693 |
| OF NITRIC ACID |] | |

August 20, 2004

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action and before examination, please amend the application
being filed concurrently herewith under 35 U.S.C. 371 as follows: